



ORIGINAL

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554
SEP 01 1998

DIV 4m
98-04985
CC DKT 96 45

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RECEIVED

Mr. Brian Kay
P.O. Box 303
Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

SEP 18 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Kay:

Thank you for your electronic mail message to President Clinton regarding a line item that has been added by your carrier to your telephone bill to recover its contributions to the universal service support mechanisms. The White House has asked me to respond to your inquiry.

On May 7, 1997, the Commission adopted an Order to implement the Federal-State Joint Board's recommendations on universal service as required by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act). The Commission established universal service support mechanisms that fulfill Congress's goal, as stated in Section 254 of the 1996 Act, of ensuring that affordable, quality telecommunications services are available to all American consumers, including low income consumers and those located in high cost, rural, and insular areas. Universal service support for carriers serving high cost areas and for low income consumers has been provided for decades. In the 1996 Act, Congress expanded universal service goals to ensure the nation's classrooms and libraries receive access to the vast array of educational resources that are accessible through the telecommunications network. These support systems also will link health care providers located in rural areas to urban medical centers so that patients living in rural America will have access, through the telecommunications network, to the same advanced diagnostic and other medical services that are enjoyed in urban communities.

In the 1996 Act, Congress required all telecommunications carriers that provide interstate telecommunications services to contribute on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis to universal service. The Commission implemented this statutory provision by requiring all such telecommunications carriers to contribute to the universal service support mechanisms. Neither Congress, nor the Commission, requires such carriers to pass this contribution on to their customers. To the contrary, carriers decide how and to what extent they recover their contributions. Carriers, however, may not mislead customers as to how they recover contributions and may only recover an equitable share from any particular customer.

The Commission is monitoring the universal service support mechanisms and their impact on telephone ratepayers. This issue will be carefully reviewed as the support mechanisms are administered.

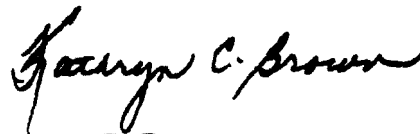
No. of Copies rec'd _____
List A B C D E

Mr. Brian Kay

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Your letter has been placed in the official public record of the universal service proceeding (CC Docket No. 96-45). I appreciate your interest and views on these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kathryn C. Brown". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Kathryn C. Brown
Chief
Common Carrier Bureau

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

CLB
96-456

4985

6/12/98
DATE

MEMORANDUM FOR:

FCC, 47

FROM:

SUE J. SMITH *SJS*
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF AGENCY LIAISON

SUBJECT:

REFERRAL OF WHITE HOUSE BULK MAIL

Thank you for your continued hard work in ensuring responses to the Presidential letters and inquiries forwarded to your agency. The volume of mail that the President and Mrs. Clinton receive still remains unprecedented.

Please return any misreferrals to me at the following address:

Ms. Sue J. Smith
Director, Office of Agency Liaison
Room 6, OEOB
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 202/456-7486.

Thank you very much.

Agfms / 500

From nobody@www2.whitehouse.gov Tue Jun 2 22:01:41 1998
Date: Tue, 02 Jun 1998 22:00:29 -0400
From: Brian Kay <morningmouth@webtv.net>
Subject: Inbound-White_House_WWW_MAIL => PRESIDENT
Apparently-to: president@WhiteHouse.GOV
To: president@WhiteHouse.GOV
Errors-to: The Postmaster <postmaster@www2.whitehouse.gov>
Reply-to: Brian Kay <morningmouth@webtv.net>
Message-id: <199806030200.WAA28461@www2.whitehouse.gov>

Keywords: WWW-Correspondence; ; Register disagreement with a position; Taxes;
No Answer;
Comments: Forwarded from White House WWW
Comments: This message scanned by SCAN version 0.1 jms/960226

[Connection Information]

CLIENT: proxy-113.iap.bryant.webtv.net[207.79.35.33]
BROWSER: Mozilla/3.0 WebTV/1.2 (compatible; MSIE 2.0)
URL: http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/Mail/html/Mail_President.html

[Sender Information]

PERSONAL-NAME: Brian Kay
EMAIL-ADDRESS: morningmouth@webtv.net
ORGANIZATION:
RELATIONSHIP:
STREET-ADDRESS: pobox 303
CITY: sandpoint
STATE-PROVINCE: idaho
ZIP-CODE: 83864
COUNTRY: usa

[Message Information]

PURPOSE: Register disagreement with a position
TOPIC: Taxes
AFFILIATION: No Answer
SUBJECT: e-rate taxes

[Message]

Is it true that the E-Rate Program is a tax that is being hidden from the American people in our long distance phone bills? Is it true that it is mandated to be administrated by AT&T? Is it true that it will be implemented by the FCC? Is it true that E-Rate is a tax imposed on the American people without the benefit of congressional legislation or approval? Why is it being kept quiet from the general public? Are you aware that it will cause a tremendous public outcry? Will you

please answer these questions for me and tell me what you are planning to do about it? Thank you in advance for your swift response. Brian.